

TO: FY2004 Byrne Memorial Project Coordinators

FROM: Kathy Crandall
OHS&JP Director

DATE: February 28, 2005

RE: **Byrne Funding Alert**

As anticipated, the Edward Byrne Memorial Block and Local Law Enforcement Block grants have been eliminated from the FY 2005 Federal budget. The Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program was created in HR 3036 and combines the previous grant programs of Byrne and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) into one broad grant program. Total funding for this new entitlement block grant equates to a quarter of the previous allocation Franklin County received for Byrne and LLEBG in FY 2004.

JAG is a direct entitlement program allocated to State and qualifying units of local government. Recognizing the impact of this dramatic loss in funding for our community, the City of Columbus and Franklin County, as recipients of these direct funds have agreed to create a separate grant program entitled Community Prevention and Education Grants (CPEG). Please refer to the enclosed RFP announcement for additional information and clarification

The Mayor and the Board of Commissioners have allocated \$250,000 for Community Prevention Education programs to offset the loss of Byrne. Agencies choosing to apply for CPEG funds may request up to \$25,000 with a 25% required cash match.

We encourage Franklin County service providers and community residents impacted by this loss to contact their Federal legislators to express their concern. Enclosed you will find a listing of your legislators with contact information.

The Franklin County Office of Homeland Security & Justice Programs has enjoyed working with each of your agencies over the past years and can only hope that the National community response to these dramatic funding cuts will help to restore prior funding levels. Our office will continue to provide planning, training and technical assistance to the justice community and are available for assistance.